

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY REAPPOINTS VERBIEST TO CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley has reappointed **Sarah Verbiest** of Durham to the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force.

Verbiest is executive director of the UNC Center for Maternal and Infant Health. She is a member of the N.C. Perinatal Association, the N.C. Folic Acid Council and the Perinatal Quality Collaborative of North Carolina. Verbiest received the National March of Dimes Chapter of the Year Award for Program and Public Affairs in 1999 and 2001. She received her Bachelor's degree in French from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. and her Master's degrees in public health and social work from UNC at Chapel Hill.

The task force conducts a statistical study of the incidences and causes of child deaths in the state and establishes a profile of child deaths. Members work to develop a system for multidisciplinary review of child deaths; and studies the operation of existing local teams. The task force examines laws, rules and policies relating to confidentiality of and access to information that affects agencies with responsibilities for children, including state and local health, mental health, social services, education and law enforcement agencies, to determine if those regulations inappropriately impede the exchange of information necessary to protect children from preventable deaths. The task force has 35 members, each serving a two-year term. The governor appoints four members. The Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tempore each appoint 10 members. The Chief Medical Examiner, Attorney General, director of Division of Social Services, director of State Bureau of Investigation, director of Division of Women's and Children's Health for the Department of Health and Human Services, director of Governor's Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office, superintendent of Public Instruction, chairman of the State Board of Education, director of Department of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, secretary of Health and Human Services and the director of Administrative Office of the Courts also serve on the board.

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